

NEWS BULLETIN

22 September 2011



GLOBAL

HUNGER - With food prices set to remain high over the next five years, the impact of the global food crisis on the world's poor is an increasingly hotly debated issue. But estimates about the number of hungry people in the world are not accurate and we need better ways to measure and monitor food insecurity, experts say.

HEALTH - The world's poorer countries could introduce measures to prevent and treat millions of cases of cancer, heart disease, diabetes and lung disease for as little as \$1.20 per person per year, the UNWHO has said. Meanwhile, at least 350 million children worldwide will live their whole lives without ever seeing a health worker, resulting in millions of deaths each year from easily preventable diseases.

AFRICA

BENIN / CONGO - Benin and the Republic of Congo have signed an accord aimed at stemming the trafficking of children between the two countries.

SOMALIA - Hundreds of displaced families taking refuge from the drought in a town on the Kenya-Somalia border have been forced to flee fighting between forces loyal to the Somali administration and Al-Shabab insurgents, said locals.

ASIA

AFGHANISTAN - The current dry spell sweeping across Afghanistan's northern, northeastern and western provinces could lead to a large-scale food crisis and the humanitarian community should act quickly to ensure this does not degenerate into a disaster, government and aid officials warn.

CINA / PAKISTAN - The UN World Health Organization has confirmed that seven polio cases, the first reported incidences of the disease there in more than a decade, have been detected in the western Xinjiang province of China, which borders Pakistan.

MYANMAR - Resistance is growing to a hydroelectric dam being built at the beginning of the Ayeyarwady River in Myanmar's northern Kachin State, with several campaigns to halt construction under way.

NEPAL - Gender discrimination lies behind much of the malnutrition found in under-five children in Nepal, say locals and experts.

NORTH KOREA - Impoverished North Korea has emerged from a stormy winter and spring better than expected, a senior official in the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization has said, adding to signs its chronic food shortage may have eased this year.

LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

HAITI - International donors are failing to meet aid pledges to Haiti, which threatens to undermine stability and already slow recovery efforts in the earthquake-shattered country, the United Nations has said.

WFWO's Communications Team